



HR0550

LRB102 21369 LAW 30481 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Elise  
4 Ford Allen of Peoria, who passed away on November 3, 2021; and

5           WHEREAS, Elise Allen was born on July 29, 1921; she was the  
6 daughter of Dr. Cecil Bruce Ford, Peoria's first African  
7 American dentist, and Florence Harrison Ford, a well-known  
8 seamstress; she married James O. Allen, an inventor and  
9 printing magnate, in 1939, and they raised ten children; she  
10 was a lifelong Peorian; and

11           WHEREAS, Elise Allen was a well-known and beloved Peoria  
12 icon and a renowned civil rights activist; she made history  
13 when she founded The Traveler Weekly Newspaper in 1966, making  
14 her the first African American woman to publish and edit a  
15 newspaper in Illinois; through the newspaper, she pursued and  
16 provoked a positive dialogue for change for the disadvantaged  
17 in Peoria; and

18           WHEREAS, Elise Allen was honored with numerous awards and  
19 proclamations for her continuous service to the community and  
20 her selfless devotion to uplifting the quality of life for  
21 minorities and the less fortunate; and

1           WHEREAS, Elise Allen was a longtime member of Heaven's  
2 View Christian Fellowship Church; and

3           WHEREAS, Elise Allen's legacy will live on through The  
4 Traveler Weekly Newspaper, which continues to focus on the  
5 true principles of democracy and keeping it a living reality  
6 to all Americans; and

7           WHEREAS, Elise Allen was preceded in death by her husband,  
8 James; her son, Matthew; her great-grandchild, Carol Irene;  
9 her sister, Florence Pickett; and her brothers, Bruce and  
10 Harrison Ford; and

11           WHEREAS, Elise Allen is survived by her children, James O.  
12 Allen Jr., Joy Stone, Angela (Homer) Henry, Barbara (Anthony)  
13 Randle, Tim (Patty) Allen, Carol Adams, Linda (Mark) Hollis,  
14 Gregory Allen, Janet Allen, and Norman Allen; her special  
15 family, Helen Margaret Jackson and Forrest Holcomb; her 38  
16 grandchildren; her 46 great-grandchildren; her three  
17 great-great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins,  
18 and friends; and the dedicated writers of The Traveler Weekly  
19 Newspaper; therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we mourn the passing of Elise Ford Allen and extend our sincere

1     condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
2     her; and be it further

3             RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4     presented to the family of Elise Allen as an expression of our  
5     deepest sympathy.